

In re Patent Application of:  
**DENNIS**  
Serial No. 10/072,460  
Filing Date: **FEBRUARY 7, 2002**

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**In the Claims:**

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled).

17. (Previously Presented) A method of encoding data in a solid state image sensor, the method comprising:

applying color processing to the array of pixels, with the array of pixels comprising a plurality of border pixels; and

varying the color processing applied to the plurality of border pixels for encoding data therein.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, wherein applying the color processing comprises applying a color filter mosaic to the array of pixels; and wherein varying the color processing comprises varying a pattern of the color filter mosaic applied to the plurality of border pixels.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 18, wherein the color filter mosaic comprises color filter material; and wherein varying the pattern of the color filter mosaic comprises removing the color filter material from selected border pixels.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 18, wherein the color filter mosaic comprises a plurality of color filter layers; and wherein varying the pattern of the color filter mosaic comprises applying the plurality of color filter layers to selected border pixels.

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21. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 18, wherein the color filter mosaic comprises a Bayer pattern color filter mosaic based upon a plurality of color filter elements; and wherein varying the pattern of the color filter mosaic comprises encoding one bit of binary data in two adjacent blocks of four pixels of the Bayer pattern color filter mosaic by varying the color filter elements applied to one pixel of one of the two adjacent blocks.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, wherein applying the color processing comprises applying a microlens array to the array of pixels; and wherein varying the color processing comprises varying a pattern of the microlens array applied to the plurality of border pixels.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the encoded data includes a color process code.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the encoded data includes a mask revision code.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the encoded data includes a product code.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the encoded data includes at least one of a start code and an end code.

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27. (Previously Presented) A method of encoding data in a solid state image sensor, the method comprising:

applying color processing to the array of pixels using a color filter mosaic, with the array of pixels comprising a plurality of border pixels; and

varying a pattern of the color filter mosaic for varying the color processing applied to the plurality of border pixels for encoding data therein.

28. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 27, wherein the color filter mosaic comprises color filter material; and wherein varying the pattern of the color filter mosaic comprises removing the color filter material from selected border pixels.

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 27, wherein the color filter mosaic comprises a plurality of color filter layers; and wherein varying the pattern of the color filter mosaic comprises applying the plurality of color filter layers to selected border pixels.

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 27, wherein the color filter mosaic comprises a Bayer pattern color filter mosaic based upon a plurality of color filter elements; and wherein varying the pattern of the color filter mosaic comprises encoding one bit of binary data in two adjacent blocks of four pixels of the Bayer pattern color filter mosaic by varying the color filter elements applied to one pixel of one of the two adjacent blocks.

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31. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 27, wherein the encoded data includes at least one of a color process code, a mask revision code, a product code, a start code and an end code.

32. (Previously Presented) A method of encoding data in a solid state image sensor, the method comprising:

applying color processing to the array of pixels using a microlens array, with the array of pixels comprising a plurality of border pixels; and

varying a pattern of the microlens array for varying the color processing applied to the plurality of border pixels for encoding data therein.

33. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 32, wherein the encoded data includes at least one of a color process code, a mask revision code, a product code, a start code and an end code.

34. (Previously Presented) A method of reading data encoded in a solid state image sensor comprising an array of pixels, the data being encoded by applying color processing to the array of pixels with the array of pixels comprising a plurality of border pixels, and by varying the color processing applied to the plurality of border pixels for encoding the data therein, the method comprising:

illuminating the array of pixels; and

processing signals output from the plurality of border pixels, with the signals corresponding to the encoded data.

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35. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 34, further comprising storing the data read from the solid state image sensor.

36. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 34, wherein the encoded data includes at least one of a color process code, a mask revision code, a product code, a start code and an end code.

37. (Previously Presented) A solid state image sensor system comprising:  
an array of pixels comprising a plurality of border pixels;  
said plurality of border pixels having data encoded therein by color processing.

38. (Previously Presented) A solid state image sensor system according to Claim 37, wherein said array of pixels comprises a color filter mosaic encoding the data.

39. (Previously Presented) A solid state image sensor system according to Claim 38, wherein said color filter mosaic comprises color filter material on selected border pixels.

40. (Previously Presented) A solid state image sensor system according to Claim 38, wherein said color filter mosaic comprises a plurality of color filter layers on selected border pixels.

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41. (Previously Presented) A solid state image sensor system according to Claim 38, wherein said color filter mosaic comprises a Bayer pattern color filter mosaic having a pattern comprising one encoded bit of binary data in two adjacent blocks of four pixels.

42. (Previously Presented) A solid state image sensor system according to Claim 37, wherein said array of pixels comprises a microlens array encoding the data.

43. (Previously Presented) A solid state image sensor system according to Claim 37, wherein the encoded data includes at least one of a color process code, a mask revision code, a product code, a start code and an end code.

44. (Previously Presented) A solid state image sensor system according to Claim 37, further comprising a processor for processing the encoded data read from said plurality of border pixels.

45. (Previously Presented) A solid state image sensor system according to Claim 37, further comprising a memory for storing the encoded data read from said plurality of border pixels.